

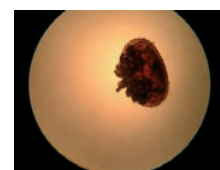
FIRST EXPERIMENT OF ORGANIC AND INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT AGAINST *VARROA DESTRUCTOR* IN ISCHILÍN REGIÓN (Córdoba, Argentina)*

M. Veca¹, E. Cossutta²

¹Bee Keeper Technician, Apicoltura Veca (Milan, Italy)

²Private consultant, COOAPIS (Cooperativa Apícola Ischilín Córdoba Limitada, Deán Funes, Córdoba, Argentina)

*This Project has been founded by the United Nations Organisation for the Industrial Development (UNIDO) and by the Italian Cooperation Office in Argentina.



The objective of the study was to evaluate the acaricide efficacy of thymol and oxalic acid combined with queen exclusion. Thirty nuclei of COOAPIS collective apiary have been selected. Each hive was equipped with a screen bottom board. The colonies were randomly divided into three batches of ten nuclei. Batch A received two applications of 12.5g of thymol in special slow-release formulation (50g of Apiguard gel) at a one week interval. Batch B was divided in two groups of 5 nuclei. B1 received three applications of an oxalic acid solution (oxalic acid: water: sugar, 1:10:10) at a five day interval. Batch B2 received only two applications of oxalic acid at a one week interval. Batch C was used as reference batch for chemical treatment and received two strips of Apistan.

At the end of the treatments, the remaining mites were recovered using an Apistan treatment. We then trapped the queen on a frame to limit the amount of brood available in the nuclei. One month after the start of the experiment, the different batches received another oxalic acid treatment in almost broodless condition.

The mean efficacy per batch was $92.5\% \pm 3.3$ (A); batch B = 61.8% (B1 = $73.4\% \pm 3.1$; B2 = $50.1\% \pm 3.6$) and batch C = $92.1\% \pm 3.9$. The mean infestation rate was 1243 mites per nuclei.

Because full colonies may have much more mites at the end of the production season, it is recommended to block queen laying as an integrated method combined with thymol and oxalic acid treatments.

